

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 12482 221830Z

42

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 (ISO) W
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O R 221816Z MAY 74
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9368
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 12482

EXDIS

DEPT PASS STR FOR AMB. MALMGREN

HELSINI FOR AMB MALMGREN

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: ETRD, GATT, EC, FR
SUBJECT: FRENCH PROPOSAL ON COGNAC

REF: PETROW-MALMGREN TELCON OF MAY 17

1. ON MAY 17 COLLIN, OFFICE OF MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS,
MINISTRY OF ECONOMY, TOLD US THAT, LEAVING ASIDE
DIFFERENCES ON IMPORT STATISTICS, WHICH FRENCH THOUGHT
IT FRUITLESS TO TRY TO RESOLVE, THE PRINCIPAL DIFFICULTY
WHICH THE GOF HAD WITH OUR PROPOSAL OF \$17 AS THE NEW
BREAK POINT ON COGNAC WAS THAT IT DID NOT
PROVIDE ADEQUATE "BREATHING SPACE," GIVEN THE ALMOST
CERTAIN PROSPECT OF NEW PRICE INCREASES IN SEPTEMBER.
CONSEQUENTLY, COLLIN SUGGESTED ON A PURELY PERSONAL
BASIS THAT, IF WE MODIFIED OUR ORIGINAL OFFER OF \$17
BY AGREEING TO AN AUTOMATIC INCREASE AT A SPECIFIED
LATER DATE, THIS MIGHT FACILITATE AN AGREEMENT. WE
PROMISED TO PASS THIS SUGGESTION ON TO WASHINGTON.

2. ON MAY 22 COLLIN CALLED ECOMMIN TO SAY THAT HE WAS
NOW AUTHORIZED TO MAKE THIS PROPOSAL OFFICIALLY. HE
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SAID THAT, IF WE WOULD AGREE TO RAISE THE BREAK POINT

TO \$17.50 IMMEDIATELY AND TO RAISE IT AGAIN TO \$20 ON
JANUARY 1, THIS WAS A PROPOSAL THAT THE GOF WOULD BE
ABLE TO ACCEPT. ECOMMIN SAID HE WOULD TRANSMIT THIS
PROPOSAL TO HIS GOVERNMENT FOR AN OFFICIAL REACTION. HE
NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT OUR CURRENT OFFER WAS \$17, NOT
\$17.50. COLLIN SAID THE GOF PREFERRED \$17.50 BUT COULD
PROBABLY ACCEPT \$17.
STONE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: golinofr
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